

billion are unacceptable. And continuing to saddle our children with a mountain of debt they cannot afford to pay is unacceptable.

This budget proposal represents a historic change in the direction of our country. It moves us from a government that is too intrusive, wasteful and debt ridden to a smaller, more efficient government that costs less and is responsive to State and local needs. This budget is a gateway to the future presenting a new vision of government. It moves authority out of Washington and helps empower every individual American.

It cuts taxes for America's families, seniors, and small businesses. It restores hope. It promises opportunity for the next generation. It protects Social Security. It increases spending on Medicare by over \$80 billion. And it saves it from bankruptcy. It will result in a higher net rate of savings and a higher standard of living for everyone. And should not everybody celebrate that?

Mr. Speaker, it is in the best interest that I strongly urge my House colleagues to support this resolution. It is for the children.

#### SAYING "NO" TO THE SOUND BITES AND PHOTO OPS

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, as you well know, posing for photo ops, listening to sound bites, and giving easy answers can be kind of addictive.

Sometimes, the sound-bite addict needs a little help in kicking the habit.

In this House, that Republican habit is to stand before the cameras and pretend that they are getting our budget in line without hurting working Americans.

That is why this House passed a rescission package that went easy on closing tax loopholes for the rich and eliminating Government bureaucracy and boondoggles.

But those rescission got tough on something.

They got tough on summer jobs and worker training, and they got tough on student loans and day care.

Well, these sound bite addicts are about to get some tough love.

It is called a veto pen.

I applaud President Clinton and his tough choice to say no to the sound bites, photo ops and easy answers that hurt our kids, hurt our students and punish working Americans.

And I encourage my friends on the other side of the aisle to kick their easy answer habit before it is too late for the American people.

#### THE REPUBLICANS WILL BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats, scare-the-people campaign about draconian cuts by Republicans is just ridiculous. The Republican budget actually increases spending by 3 percent every year for the next 7 years, spending nearly \$12 trillion more in the next 7 years than in the past.

When I was back in Dallas, my constituents put together three notebooks full of comments about ideas for reductions in Government spending. Do you know what they say? Balance the budget. So do not try to fool the American people into thinking that balancing the budget will hurt them. They know better. They know Government spends too much, and, most importantly, they know the consequences if we continue down the path that we are going on now.

They will also know, after tomorrow, that it is the Republicans who have taken the first major step toward balancing our budget.

#### THIS IS PUNISHMENT, NOT A BUDGET

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, what is wrong with the truth? It seems that many people are running in the opposite direction when we simply want to tell you the truth. This is not a budget, it is simply pure punishment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to report to you on the growing sentiments of my constituents in Houston, TX. Like other Texans and Americans nationwide, they are beginning to understand what the Republican budget proposals could really mean to their lives. I have no problem with telling them the truth, and they do not like it.

To pay for the huge tax cuts for the well-to-do, leaders of the other side of the aisle want to enact a \$283 billion cut in Medicare, three times the size of the largest previous cut in history, and Medicaid will be cut approximately \$182 million.

The lives of more than 2,000,000 Medicare seniors in Texas would be dramatically impacted, and by the year 2002 each Medicare senior in Texas would be asked to pay an additional \$1,122 out-of-pocket expenses. Each would be forced to pay \$4,000 more for fiscal years 1996 through 2002 to make up for these cuts. We want the future to be free for future generations but not on the backs of seniors and those most vulnerable.

Look at this, Mr. Speaker. Here the Republicans are cutting the dollars that the Association for Retired Citizens are about to use to help seniors find jobs. We need to do something better, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what's wrong with the truth? This is not a budget; this is punishment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to report to you on the growing sentiments of my constituents in Houston.

Like other Texans and Americans nationwide, they're beginning to understand what the Republican budget proposals could really mean to their lives, and they don't like it.

To pay for huge tax cuts for the well-to-do, leaders on the other side of the aisle want to enact a \$283 billion cut in Medicare three times the size of the largest previous cut in history. Medicaid would be cut approximately \$182 million.

The lives of more than 2-million Medicare seniors in Texas would be dramatically impacted.

By the year 2002, each Medicare senior in Texas would be asked to pay an additional \$1,222 out-of-pocket dollars per year for their health coverage.

Each would be forced to pay nearly \$4,000 dollars more, from fiscal years 1996 through 2002, to make up for GOP cuts.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on this side believe that a balanced budget is the correct goal, we want to free future generations from the burden of today's debt. We want to shrink the size of government in a responsible manner that will not pull the rug out from under a steady, strong economy.

And we want to make government more efficient and fair without breaking long-standing promises to the Nation's seniors or vulnerable children.

Mr. Speaker, we must and can do better.

#### VOTE TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, let me remind my friend on the left that just spoke that punishment is saddling the future generation with the debt, if we fail to act, if we fail to pass a budget that balances over the next 5 to 7 years.

Punishment is failing to do something in the next few days that will get this country in the right direction fiscally. If we fail to act, the children of this country face \$187,000 in interest alone if they were born tomorrow. A child born tomorrow would pay \$187,000 in interest alone on this Nation's debt.

Tomorrow we have the opportunity to vote on a budget that will balance over the next 5 to 7 years. Tomorrow we have an opportunity to send this country in the right direction, to take it out of its financial abyss where the left-leaning liberals have taken it over the last 40 years.

Tomorrow we have an opportunity to take this country in the right direction. I ask my colleagues to consider very strongly where they want this country to go, a budget that is balanced or where it has been over the last 40 years.

#### REPUBLICAN BUSINESS AS USUAL

(Mr. WARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I am a freshman. I voted for all of the reforms that we proposed, that were proposed on the 1st day of this session, especially the reform that required a three-fifths supermajority of this House to raise taxes. But now what do we see? We see the Republicans reverting to business as usual.

Since our income tax brackets are adjusted each year to reflect inflation, to keep people from being pushed into higher tax brackets simply due to that inflation, the arbitrary reduction in the Consumer Price Index by the Republicans will, in effect, increase taxes for millions of Americans. And it will do that without a three-fifths vote of this body, in direct violation of that rule that I supported.

I am deeply disappointed that we are seeing business as usual by the Republican majority.

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#### HAVE THE CLINTON DEMOCRATS NO SHAME?

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, after watching the Clinton Democrats for the past few weeks, I have finally figured out what their strategy is. Since they have no solid ideas of their own, they have started on a fear campaign filled with illegitimate scare tactics designed to try to derail any legislation Republicans offer. Have they no shame.

First it was the children. The Clinton Democrats said school lunch programs were being cut, when in fact funding was increasing. Now they are saying children will suffer if we try to balance the budget. I say what kind of future will our children have if we do not balance the budget. Have they no shame!

Next it is the college students. Clinton Democrats are scaring college students by playing fast and loose with the facts about school loans, when in reality a balanced budget will bring down interest rates by at least 2 percent, ultimately saving students money. Have they no shame.

And finally, the Clinton Democrats, in their eagerness to score political points, are using their distorted fear tactics to scare senior citizens. Republicans are working to save Medicare—Republicans repealed Clinton's tax increase on seniors. Republicans are protecting Social Security. Have the Clinton Democrats no shame.

#### THE CONTRACT'S CROWN JEWEL—TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH, BROKEN PROMISES TO SENIORS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today the bill comes due for the Republican's

tax giveaway to the privileged few, and the primary bill payers are senior citizens who will be hit with \$288 billion in cuts to Medicare.

The Speaker has called the Republican tax plan the crown jewel of the Contract With America.

It is a crown jewel all right—if you are a large corporation that may not have to pay any taxes at all—if you are a billionaire expatriate who gives up your citizenship to avoid paying taxes—if you are making more than \$350,000 and you are going to walk away with a \$20,000 tax break.

But if you are a senior citizen, get ready to pay up for that crown jewel. Your Medicare premiums and copayments are going up, and your benefits are being cut. Altogether the average senior should expect to pay \$1,060 more in out-of-pocket expenses by the year 2002.

Make no mistake about it, the Republican budget plan robs Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. To keep their promise to the rich, the Republicans must break our most sacred promise to America's seniors.

#### REPUBLICAN BUDGET PUTS GOVERNMENT ON A DIET AND RESTORES THE AMERICAN DREAM

(Mr. HOBSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has not run up a \$4.7 trillion debt because the American people pay too little taxes. The huge debt and deficits have exploded because the Federal Government is too big, spends too much of your money, and tells too many people what to do. It is big government, stupid!

Our balanced budget, for the first time in 25 years, solves this problem of oversized Government by reducing Government's size: It puts the bloated Federal Government on a diet. It eliminates the Federal deficit by trimming the size, power, intrusiveness, of the Federal Government.

Past attempts to reduce the deficit, like the Clinton tax increases, have failed because they have not addressed the deficit's root cause: oversized Government. Every dime they have collected in increased revenues has been spent on government gimmicks, spending schemes, and partisan pork. Every dollar saved in reductions in defense since 1985 has gone to feed the Government, not reduce the deficit.

Our balanced budget plan is different. Not only does our plan just say no to Clinton-style hikes. Our balanced budget actually includes tax relief for our families, small businesses, students, and seniors.

Our balanced budget finally solves the problem of too much Washington. It puts the Government on a diet, returns power to families, neighborhoods, and communities, and restores the

American dream. I urge all my colleagues to support this plan for the future of our children.

#### WHY ARE REPUBLICANS GOUGING MEDICARE TO PAY FOR TAX CUTS FOR THE PRIVILEGED FEW?

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, why are Republicans gouging Medicare to pay for tax breaks for the privileged few? Why do they cut almost \$300 billion in Medicare to senior citizens for tax breaks, of which only 1½ percent of those tax breaks go to families under \$20,000? Incidentally, 50 percent goes to families over \$100,000. Yet the Medicare cuts go to 100 percent of all senior citizens.

Why are Republicans cutting the student loan program to pay for tax breaks for the privileged few? Here are petitions signed by thousands of West Virginia high school and college students and parents asking Congress not to cut the student loan program, not to cut their future. We do not have to be Phi Beta Kappas to know that giving already wealthy Americans a tax break while denying students a chance just to be middle income simply is not fair.

Mr. Speaker, budgets reflect values. Slashing Medicare, cutting student loans, Americans want the budget balanced, but not on the backs of American values.

#### AMERICANS HAVE ENTERED A NEW ERA: THE AGE OF RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I have discovered the difference between the Democrat and Republican Parties. The Democrat Party lives in constant fear that America is going to discover the truth. The Republican Party lives in constant fear that they will not.

The fact is, it is true that in 2 years, according to the Clinton budget, interest on the debt will exceed all defense spending. It is also true that in 7 years, according to Clinton's trust fund advisers, Medicare will be bankrupt and they will not be able to pay any bills for hospitals, any home health care.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have entered a new era. It is the age of responsibility. Americans are willing to take responsibility for their actions. They are asking us to take responsibility for our actions. It is true that we have put our children and grandchildren into 5 trillion dollars' worth of debt. The responsible thing is to try and pay that down and balance the budget. It is true that education is an abject failure. The responsible thing is to reform it, not to throw more money at it. It is true that Medicare must be reformed to be saved